Offers from NRIs to set up Food Processing Units

2366. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received offers from Non-Resident Indians to set up food processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several hurdles are being faced by them for setting up food processing units in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Govemment propose to take to remove the hur dles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE)F THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

Ob) As per information available with this Ministry, one proposal for setting up of 100 per cent EOU for manufacture of pickles and food spices in Gujarat has been received from NRIs recently. Besides, 6 applications for manufacture of beer, 2 applications for manufacture of alcohol, one proposal for manufacture of .^nack foods and non-alcoholic beverages base and one application for setting up of Chicken Processing plant in the different parts of the country have also been received from NRIs recently.

(c) This Ministry does not foresee any hurdles being faced by the NRIs for setting up of Food Processing units in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Bottling unit$_s$ Pepsi Soft Drinks

2367. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bottling units which have been given only orovi-sional approval to manufacture Pepsi Soft Drinks under the Fruit Products Order by F and VP Directorate;

(b) the reasons for giving provisional approval;

(c) whether Government have turned down Pepsi Foods' request for permission to manufacture their soft drinks in 500 ml, 1 litre packaging; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO). (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will ■be laid on the table of the House.

Food Technology Research Institute at Bhopal

2368. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM.-Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether *overnmqet propose to establish a ftentaaj Foed Techno-[1] logy Research Institute at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 1. Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore has already established a Regional Centre at Nagpur to meet the need of central part of the country on various aspects of food technology.

2. There is a full-fledged Regional Research Laboratory at Bhopal to specifically assist in the exploitation of the natural resources of the State of Madhya Pradesh.

3. It has been decided, as a policy measure, not to establish any new field centre, but utilize the existing ones for meeting the additional requirements.

Merger of Ministry of Food Processing Industries with Ministry of Food

2369. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the merger of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries with the Ministry of Food, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) when the merger is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI G1RI-DHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Legislation on Deep Sea Fishing

2370. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES toe pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Time dated 6th February, 1992 cap tioned "Deep sea fishing legislation soon";

(b) whether country's marine shr imp resurces are over-exploited;

(c) the number of deep sea shrimp vessels in Indian waters at present;

(d) the number of deep sea shrimp fishing vessels lying idle dae to over fishing;

(e) the steps being taken to protect existing Indian fleet; and

(f) whether Government are permitting foreign companies to being multi-purpose fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Gir.

(b) Reports from various experts committees indicate that there is no further scope to increase the produc tion of marine shrimp.

(c) and (d) There are 179 deep sea fishing vessels (20 mtrs, and above overall length) owned by Indian companies. Most of these vessels sre capable of conduqjing bottom trawler-ing for exploitation of coastal shrimp. There is no specific intimation reg arding deep sea shrimp fishing vessels lying idle due to over fishing. In view of (b) above, the deep sea fish ing operators are encouraged for di versified fishing for exploitation of non-shrimp resources.

(e) The exploitation of marine resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone by foreign fishing vessels are regulated in accordance with the Maritime Zon_e of India (Regulation of Foreign Fishing Vessels) Act, 1981 and Rules framed there under. The Coast Guards is entrusted with the responsibility of checking the poaching foreign fishing vessels in Indian EEZ.

(f) Indian entrepreneurs are per. mitted to collaborate with foreign fishing companies for deep sea fishing in Indian waters and to introduce resource specific vessels in Indian EEZ.